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Message Text

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47
ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 CCO-00 /002 W
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O 141514Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7395

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FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR OF SCA ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN
SUBJECT: RECORD OF ADMINISTRATOR'S VISIT TO ATHENS

1. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY IS FOR YOUR RECORD AND RELATES TO THE OCTOBER 6 THROUGH 7 CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN YOURSELF, UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE OLDRICH HASELMAN, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ICMC AND WCC, MRS. LIDORIKIS AND MR. DE JONGE RESPECTIVELY, AND AMBASSADOR DENNIS KARAYANNIS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. OCTOBER 6 DISCUSSIONS WITH UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE OLDRICH HASELMAN- DURING THE EVENING WITH MR. AND MRS. HASELMAN YOU WERE BRIEFED ON THE SOVIET ARMENIAN/ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN REFUGEE PROGRAM, AND SPECIFICALLY ON THE HOPES OF UNHCR TO EVENTUALLY GAIN ADMITTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SEVERAL HUNDRED REFUGEES REMAINING FROM THIS PROGRAM. THEY WERE REFUSED ADMITTANCE DURING INITIAL INTERVIEWS, AND AGAIN FOLLOWING THEIR APPEALS. THE APPEALS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL FOR ABOUT 75 PERCENT OF THE INDIVIDUALS INITIALLY REFUSED.
MR. HASELMAN EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE REMAINING REJECTEES MIGHT NEVERTHELESS ACHIEVE ADMITTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FOR COMPASSIONATE REASONS, AS MANY HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE UNITED STATES. DURING THE ENSUING DISCUSSION YOU EMPHASIZED THAT THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE UNHCR SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ASSUME EVENTUAL ADMITTANCE OF THE REJECTEES. YOU STRESSED THAT THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SHOULD CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS ON OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS CANADA AND AUSTRALIA; ADDING THAT IN THOSE CASES WHERE FAMILY MEMBERS ARE IN THE UNITED STATES, THE REJECTEES WOULD
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DO WELL TO SEEK ADMITTANCE THROUGH NORMAL IMMIGRATION, WITH THE

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RESPONSIBLE VOLUNTARY AGENCY ASSISTING THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF
SUITABLE JOB OFFERS.

3. OCTOBER 7 MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNHCR, ICMC,
WCC, INS AND THE CONSULAR SECTION. THOSE PRESENT INCLUDED YOURSELF,
AND THE FOLLOWING:

UNHCR
OLDRICH HASELMAN
MARIOS PREKAS
MRS. DORA GONTIKA
ICMC
MRS. MARGARITA LIDORIKIS
WCC
FRANKE DE JONGE
INS
LOUIS PAPPAS
CONSULAR SECTION
THOMAS DAVIS
SPIROS SIAFACAS

AS THE MEETING COMMENCED, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VOLUNTARY
AGENCIES ENTERTAINED SOME HOPE THAT WITH YOUR COOPERATION THE
REMAINDER OF THE REFUGEES MIGHT BE ACCOMMODATED THROUGH
ADMITTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES, FOR COMPASSIONATE REASONS RELATING
TO FAMILY MEMBERS NOW RESIDENT IN THE U.S. UPON DISCUSSION HOWEVER,
THE LATTER WERE IDENTIFIED AS RECENT REFUGEES, WHO THEMSELVES ARE
NOT SUFFICIENTLY SETTLED TO SERVE AS SPONSORS.

4. YOU STRESSED, AS DURING THE EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH MR. HASELMAN,
THAT THE USG EXPECTS THE UNHCR AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO DO THEIR
BEST TO FIND HOMES FOR THE REFUGEES IN OTHER COUNTRIES THAT THE
UNITED STATES, POINTING OUT THAT THE U.S. ALREADY HAS TAKEN ALMOST
90 PERCENT OF THE ORIGINAL GROUP.

5. THE ICMC AND WCC REPRESENTATIVES ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY ARE NOW
WORKING WITH CANADA AND AUSTRALIA TO TAKE UP TO A HUNDRED EACH.
YOU SUGGESTED THEY EXPAND THEIR EFFORTS TO INCLUDE THE TOTAL
REMAINING
REFUGEES, AND IF UNSUCCESSFUL SEEK NORMAL IMMIGRATION FOR THE
REMAINDER, AGAIN THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUITABLE JOB OFFERS.
YOU CONCLUDED WITH THE ADMONISHMENT THAT ONLY AFTER SUCH AF EFFORT
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BY THE AGENCIES WOULD THE USG BE WILLING TO RECONSIDER THE
QUESTION OF ADMITTANCE.

6. SEPARATELY, THE QUESTION OF EGYPTIAN COPTS CAME UP WHEN
MR. DE JONGE SOUGHT INFORMATION CONCERNING POSSIBLE ADMITTANCE
TO THE UNITED STATES OF THIS GROUP. HE POINTED OUT THAT ABOUT
70 WERE APPROVED AT ATHENS LAST SPRING FOR ADMITTANCE AS REFUGEES.
FYI 149 COPTS WERE BROUGHT TO ATHENS BY WCC DURING THE GENERAL

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MOVEMENT OF ARMENIAN AND ASSYRIAN REFUGEES. SIXTY-FOUR WERE PROCESSED
BEFORE GENEVA INFORMED UNHCR ATHENS THAT THE GROUP WAS NO LONGER
MANDATED AS REFUGEES END FYI. IN RESPONSE TO DEJONGE IT WAS POINTED
OUT THAT THE GROUP DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR REFUGEE PROGRAM;

THEY ARE
NOT MANDATED AS REFUGEES BY THE UNHCR, AND THE UAR IS WILLING TO
PERMIT THE RETURN OF THE INDIVIDUALS TO EGYPT.

7. THE REMAINING REFUGEES TOTAL 378 PEOPLE, OR 190 CASES
(INCLUDING 85 EGYPTIAN COPTS, OR 68 CASES), WITH ICMC RESPONSIBLE
FOR 47 INDIVIDUALS (23 CASES), AND WCC RESPONSIBLE FOR 331
INDIVIDUALS OR 167 CASES. WCC HAS PRESENTED 144 INDIVIDUALS TO THE
CANADIAN EMBASSY AND 78 INDIVIDUALS TO THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY.
ICMC HAS PRESENTED 28 INDIVIDUALS TO THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, OF WHOM
6 HAVE BEEN REJECTED. ACCORDINGLY, REFUGEES REMAINING AT ATHENS
FROM THE ARMENIAN/ASSYRIAN PROGRAM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

AGENCY	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	CASES	PRESENTED TO CANADA	PRESENTED TO AUSTRALIA	REJECTED
ICMC	47	23	28		6
WCC	331	167	144	78	
TOTAL	378	190	172	78	6

THOSE NOT PRESENTED TO EITHER CANADA OR AUSTRALIA (OR HAVE BEEN
REJECTED) TOTAL 128. APPROXIMATELY 95 PERCENT OF THE LATTER ARE
SAID TO HAVE CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES.

8. OCTOBER 7 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DENNIS KARAYANNIS-DURING
YOUR COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR KARAYANNIS YOU EXCHANGED NORMAL
PLEASANTRIES, INCLUDING AN EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE
COOPERATION RECEIVED BY THE CONSULAR SECTION FROM THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY, I.E. COOPERATION RECEIVED DURING THE RECENT EVACUATION
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FROM BEIRUT. AMBASSADOR KARAYANNIS NOTED THAT THE GOG IS INTERESTED
IN THE PROBLEM OF ABSENTEE VOTING BY OVERSEAS GREEKS, AND INQUIRED
ABOUT THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN THIS REGARD. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR
SUGGESTION, HE INDICATED HE MAY PREPARE SOME SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
RELATING TO THE AMERICAN PRACTICE FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT.

9. ALTHOUGH INITIAL TELEGRAM DISTRIBUTION IS RESTRICTED TO YOURSELF
(AS SUBJECT MATTER RELATES TO YOUR DISCUSSIONS) YOU MAY WISH SHARE
WITH GREENE OF INS, AND JIM CARLIN OF D/HA.
MILLS

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